

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 527

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Presidential Medal of Freedom should be awarded to Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 21, 1994

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DIXON, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. MCKINNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Presidential Medal of Freedom should be awarded to Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays.

Whereas Benjamin Elijah Mays, throughout his distinguished career of more than half a century as an educator, civil and human rights nonviolent leader, and public theologian, has inspired people of all races throughout the world by his persistent commitment to excellence;

Whereas Benjamin Elijah Mays persevered, despite the frustrations inherent in segregation, to begin an illustrious career in education;

Whereas as dean of the School of Religion of Howard University and later as President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, for 27 years, Benjamin Elijah Mays over-

came seemingly insurmountable obstacles to offer quality education to all Americans, especially African Americans;

Whereas at the commencement of World War II, when most colleges suffered from a lack of available students and the demise of Morehouse College appeared imminent, Benjamin Mays prevented the college from permanently closing its doors by vigorously recruiting potential students and thereby aiding in the development of future generations of African American leaders;

Whereas, as a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Mays has been called the “schoolmaster of the civil rights movement”;

Whereas Benjamin Mays was instrumental in the elimination of segregated public facilities in the United States, and promoted the cause of nonviolence through peaceful protests during a time in this Nation that was often marred by racial violence;

Whereas Benjamin Mays has been the recipient of numerous accolades throughout his career, including 56 honorary degrees from universities across the Nation and abroad and the naming of 7 American schools and academic buildings and a street in his honor; and

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the Nation, was established in 1945 to appropriately recognize Americans who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the President should award Benjamin

1 Elijah Mays the Presidential Medal of Freedom post-
2 humously in honor of his distinguished career as an educa-
3 tor, civil and human rights nonviolent leader, and public
4 theologian and his many contributions to the improvement
5 of American society and the world.

